

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 15 and 18 (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A brush including a bristle having a substantially rigid shaft and a bristle receiving body portion having a plurality of substantially rigid bristles disposed therein and wherein said body portion of said brush has a plurality of holes adapted for receiving said bristles and wherein said bristles are arranged in tufts of bristles wherein each tuft consists of at least ten bristles and wherein each of said bristles has at least one groove along the longitudinal axis of said substantially rigid shaft of each of said bristles wherein the scrubbing action of said brush causes each of said bristles to bend, twist and rotate about its axis and to agitate liquid substances which are present in the area to be cleaned and wherein the bending, twisting and rotating of said bristles causes the tips of said bristles and said substantially rigid shafts of said bristles to act as cleaning surfaces and whereby said longitudinal axis having said groove acts as an extended scraping device with respect to the surface to be cleaned.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) A toothbrush including a bristle, as claimed in Claim 17, having a substantially rigid shaft and a bristle receiving head portion having a plurality of substantially rigid bristles disposed therein and wherein said head portion of said toothbrush has a plurality of holes adapted for receiving said bristles and wherein said bristles are arranged in tufts for insertion in said holes on said head portion of said toothbrush and wherein each tuft of said bristles on said head portion of said toothbrush consists of a constant number of bristles and wherein each bristle of said tuft of bristles has at least one groove along the longitudinal axis of said substantially

rigid shaft of each of said bristles and wherein application of vertical and horizontal pressure in a back and forth scrubbing motion on the tip of the bristle causes the bristle to twist and bend and force saliva between the teeth and gums and wherein the twisting and bending of the shaft of said bristle increases the contacts between the shaft of the bristle and the surface of the teeth and gums so that said groove on said shaft of said bristle act as abrasive device to remove foreign particles lodged between and around the teeth and gums.

CLAIMS, AS AMENDED:

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A brush including a bristle having a substantially rigid shaft and a bristle receiving body portion having a plurality of

--said -- substantially rigid bristles disposed therein and wherein said body portion of said brush has a plurality of holes adapted for receiving said bristles and wherein said bristles are arranged in tufts of bristles wherein each tuft consists of at least ten bristles and wherein each of said bristles has at least one groove along the longitudinal axis of said substantially rigid shaft of each of said bristles wherein the scrubbing action of said brush causes each of said bristles to bend, twist and rotate about its axis and to agitate liquid substances which are present in the area to be cleaned and wherein the bending, twisting and rotating of said bristles causes the tips of said bristles and said substantially rigid shafts of said bristles to act as cleaning surfaces and whereby said longitudinal axis having said groove acts as an extended scraping device with respect to the surface to be cleaned.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) A toothbrush including a bristle, "as claimed in Claim 17," having a substantially rigid shaft and a bristle receiving head portion having a plurality of -- said -- substantially rigid bristles disposed therein and wherein said head portion of said toothbrush has a plurality of holes adapted for receiving said bristles and wherein said bristles are arranged in tufts for insertion in said holes on said head portion of said toothbrush and wherein each tuft of said bristles on said head portion of said toothbrush consists of "a constant number of bristles" -- at least ten bristles-- and wherein each bristle of said tuft of bristles has at least one groove along the longitudinal axis of said substantially rigid shaft of each of said bristles and wherein application of

vertical and horizontal pressure in a back and forth scrubbing motion on the tip of the bristle causes the bristle to twist and bend and force saliva between the teeth and gums and wherein the twisting and bending of the shaft of said bristle increases the contacts between the shaft of the bristle and the surface of the teeth and gums so that said groove on said shaft of said bristle act as abrasive device to remove foreign particles lodged between and around the teeth and gums.

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Claim 17. (Currently amended) A brush including a bristle having a substantially rigid shaft and a bristle receiving body portion having a plurality of said substantially rigid bristles disposed therein and wherein said body portion of said brush has a plurality of holes adapted for receiving said bristles and wherein said bristles are arranged in tufts of bristles wherein each tuft consists of at least ten bristles and wherein each of said bristles has at least one groove along the longitudinal axis of said substantially rigid shaft of each of said bristles wherein the scrubbing action of said brush causes each of said bristles to bend, twist and rotate about its axis and to agitate liquid substances which are present in the area to be cleaned and wherein the bending, twisting and rotating of said bristles causes the tips of said bristles and said substantially rigid shafts of said bristles to act as cleaning surfaces and whereby said longitudinal axis having said groove acts as an extended scraping device with respect to the surface to be cleaned.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) A toothbrush including a bristle having a substantially rigid shaft and a bristle receiving head portion having a plurality of said substantially rigid bristles disposed therein and wherein said head portion of said toothbrush has a plurality of holes adapted for receiving said bristles and wherein said bristles are arranged in tufts for insertion in said holes on said head portion of said toothbrush and wherein each tuft of said bristles on said head portion of said toothbrush consists of a constant number of bristles and wherein each bristle of said tuft of bristles has at least one groove along the longitudinal axis of said substantially rigid shaft of each of said bristles and wherein application of vertical and horizontal

pressure in a back and forth scrubbing motion on the tip of the bristle causes the bristle to twist and bend and force saliva between the teeth and gums and wherein the twisting and bending of the shaft of said bristle increases the contacts between the shaft of the bristle and the surface of the teeth and gums so that said groove on said shaft of said bristle act as abrasive device to remove foreign particles lodged between and around the teeth and gums.